

**REPORT TO THE  
TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE  
STATE OF HAWAII**

**ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION FUND**

**PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 321-27, HAWAII REVISED  
STATUTES, REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
TO SUBMIT A REPORT ON THE STATUS OF THE  
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION FUND**

**PREPARED BY:  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
STATE OF HAWAII**

**October 2008**

## **ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION FUND FINANCES AND ACTIVITIES DURING FY 2008**

The Environmental Health Education Fund supports the training of food establishment personnel and Department of Health staff; as well as educational outreach to food establishments and the general public regarding food safety. This report provides a broad overview of the functional role of the Environmental Health Services Division (EHSD) and how its activities relate to the Environmental Health Education Fund to demonstrate the significance of this fund to public health.

This report is submitted under Section 321-27(d), Hawaii Revised Statutes, which states that the Department “shall submit a report to the Legislature concerning the status of the Environmental Health Education Fund, including, but not limited to the amount of monies taken in and expended from the fund, and the sources of receipts and uses of expenditures...”

### **EHSD AND ITS APPROACH TO PROTECTING PUBLIC HEALTH**

The mission of the EHSD branches is to optimize public health and environmental practices through prevention, assessment, compliance, and education. In performing these functions, the programs within EHSD must be able to prevent or reduce the occurrence of any environmentally-related communicable diseases, illnesses, or injury from contaminated food products, defective medical devices, and vectors.

The programs in EHSD are in the following branches: Sanitation; Food and Drug; Vector Control; and, Indoor and Radiological Health. The Division staff are professionals with capabilities for assessing food contamination and adulteration; inspecting and permitting food establishments; evaluating x-ray devices and other sources of radiation; measuring and testing stationary noise standards; evaluating and monitoring for indoor air quality, asbestos and lead; assessing concerns of unsanitary conditions; responding to and resolving nuisance complaints relating to environmentally-related conditions; and, abating vectors in public areas.

Staff training, public education, information management, and program enhancement are significant division activities, focusing on maximizing program efficiency and effectiveness. The Environmental Health Education Fund allows the Division the appropriate mechanism to provide on-going education for updating and cross-training staff with the technological and organizational changes.

The current EHSD emphasis on education of the public and motivation of operators of regulated facilities to comply with applicable standards and regulations has remained unchanged. Compliance with rules to protect public health, not enforcement per se, is the primary objective of the EHSD programs. The fund is thus a vital component in this long-range plan, which includes education for the industries that the Division regulates. The premise is that both education and public outreach efforts enhance compliance. Wide dissemination of information concerning the technical and scientific basis for the program’s regulatory requirements should contribute to a clearer understanding of the necessity for compliance. Education is always continuous, particularly with regards to new scientific findings and new technologies. Informed

industries and citizens who clearly understand the public health rationale of program functions and laws are fundamental partners in assuring that potential environmental health problems are identified and resolved before actual illness, injury or fatality occurs.

#### EHEF FINANCES

As authorized in Section 321-27(a), HRS, the Department can collect and deposit fees for permits, licenses, inspections, various certificates, variances and investigations and reviews into the fund pursuant to Sections 321-11.5(a)(c) and 321-15, HRS.

For fiscal year 2008 revenues collected and deposited into the fund totaled \$732,883.51. The primary sources of funds were collected statewide from permit fees for food establishments, plan reviews, temporary food applications, and license fees for tattoo artists, registered sanitarians, embalmers, laboratory technologists and laboratory directors.

For fiscal year 2008, expenditures including encumbrances totaled \$609,918.08.

For fiscal year 2008, expenditures totaled \$308,767.62 for personnel costs of two Registered Sanitarian IV's in the Food Safety Consultation and Education Program (located on the Island of Hawaii and Oahu), an Information Technology Specialist (ITS) IV, and an ITS III. The Information Technology Specialist III position was filled in May 2008. The two Registered Sanitarians in the Food Safety Consultation and Education Program provide educational and training opportunities for food establishments statewide, which are consistent with Section 321-402, HRS. The ITS IV and ITS III provide the Division with technical support for managing the Division's data system and assisting the programs on computer matters.

#### FOOD SAFETY CONSULTATION & EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

For fiscal year 2008, the Food Safety Consultation and Education Program provided the following services:

##### **Food Handlers Educated**

<u>Description</u>	<u>Number</u>
Food Certification Workshops Given:	36
Student Attendance:	733
Students Certified:	655
Food Safety Classes Given:	66
Student Attendance:	1,303

Food certification workshops are 16-hour classes that deal with the principles of food safety and protection as it pertains to HAR 11-12 Food Establishment Sanitation. Successful completion of the workshop and examination results in the issuance of a Hawaii Department of Health Food Handler's Certificate. Food safety classes are customized classes that can range from one hour or more to address specific needs or problems of the participants. No certificates are issued for these classes. Both workshops and classes are open to food establishment personnel and the public.

### **DOH Staff Educated**

The EHEF is also significant for the programs and personnel of the Environmental Health Services Division as a means toward providing improved public health services. In addition to on-going workshops conducted by the Food Safety Consultation and Education Program, the following are highlights of fiscal year 2008:

1. A staff from the Sanitation Branch attended the Southwest and Pacific Regional Milk Conference in Louisville, Kentucky on July 9 – 13, 2007. This conference focuses on regional trends and issues related to the milk industry and reviews the amendments to FDA Pasteurized milk Ordinance.
2. A supervisor and an inspector from the Food & Drug Branch participated in the Institute of Food Technologist Annual Meeting & Food Expo, July 28 – August 1, 2007 in Chicago, Illinois.
3. A Food & Drug Branch supervisor participated in the Interstate Shellfish Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico, August 11 – 17, 2007.
4. Two Food & Drug Branch inspectors attended the Western Association of Food & Drug Officials conference in Denver, Colorado, August 26 – 29, 2007.
5. Two inspectors from the Food & Drug Branch participated in the Food Safety and Security Summit, March 17 – 19, 2008 in Washington, D.C.
6. Two Sanitarians whose major responsibilities are regulating the milk industry in Hawaii attended the Pacific/Southwest Regional Milk Seminar in Reno, Nevada, March 31, 2008 – April 4, 2008.
7. Two Sanitarians and a Food & Drug inspector attended the Conference for Food Protection in San Antonio, Texas, April 10 – 17, 2008. Hawaii is an active participant in this national conference. The Sanitation Branch is designated as a voting member with regards to discussion and proceedings related to issues of food protection and safety.
8. A supervisor from the Food & Drug Branch participated in the Pacific Rim Shellfish Sanitation Conference, April 21 – 24, 2008 in San Diego, California.

9. A Sanitation Branch staff and a Food & Drug Branch inspector attended the Association of Food & Drug Officials annual conference in Anaheim, California, June 7 – 12, 2008. This conference provides nationals insights on recalls of fresh produce, canned goods, and other consumer goods.
10. A Food Educator and an inspector from the Sanitation Branch, and a supervisor and inspector from the Food & Drug Branch participated in the National Environmental Health Association Annual Education Conference, June 22 – 25, 2008 in Tucson, Arizona.
11. The Environmental Health Services Division conducted the annual Emergency & Disaster Response Workshop, September 6 – 7, 2007. The EHSD programs have significant roles and responsibilities in post disaster response, particularly with natural disasters. The annual workshop is to provide continuous training for our staff to maintain essential knowledge on emergency and disaster response.
12. In partnership with the Hawaii Environmental Health Association, the Environmental Health Services Division sponsored the annual education conference on November 28 – 29, 2007. This annual conference provides our staff with educational sessions on food safety, vector control, radiation control, indoor air, and other public health topics.
13. A Professional Development Workshop on Team Building was conducted for all division staff on April 24 – 25, 2008.
14. The Sanitation Branch conducted a Strategic Planning Workshop on May 29 – 30, 2008 on Kauai. This workshop was attended by all Sanitation Branch staff, statewide, and was significant in developing the program's future goals and objectives.
15. Meetings of the Advisory Council on Food Protection Practices were also conducted to discuss food protection and safety issues.
16. Various statewide program and division meetings for managers and staff were also conducted.
17. Investments continued in expanding, upgrading and improving the division's information technology infrastructure and information management system.

In summary, the Environmental Health Education fund was significant in providing for many of these program activities, personnel enhancement opportunities, and technology infrastructure advancements. Prudent utilization of expenditures for FY 2009 will continue to ensure the protection of public health needs through effective and efficient government services.